# Every Farmer His Own Rope Repairer--The Long Splice

**Money and Time Saved by Those Who Read Carefully Professor Bracker's Informative Article.**

In the days of sailing ships every sailor knew how to splice ropes and a score or more of splices learned he. When steam superceded sail the sailor no longer learned how to splice. But it is just as necessary for the farmer to know how to splice ropes as it ever was for the sailor, that is if he believes in economical management on the farm. That is why we believe Professor Bracker's article herewith, specially written for this paper, with the accompanying illustrations by courtesy of Oregon Agricultural College, one of the most valuable articles we have been able to offer.

**BY E. M. D. BRACKER,**
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EVERY farmer should be able to splice his own ropes. This would save much time when time means money. It would also save the money value of ropes that are primarily discarded when broken.

The long splice only will be considered in this article, as it is used where the spliced rope passes through a pulley block. If, however, the rope should break in a place which does not pass through the pulley it may be temporarily remedied by tying an overhand knot in an end of the rope. Pass the other end through this knot and tie an overhand knot in its end so as to include the first end. The knots are until they meet.

The first step in making a long splice is to unlay the strands some distance from the end of the rope. The amount of rope to unlay depends on its size and the number of strands. Each end of a three-strand half-inch rope should be unlaid two feet. Unlay six inches more for each one-quarter inch increase in size over one-half inch. A four-strand rope should be unlaid eight inches more for each size than a three-strand rope. It will then be seen that a three-strand half-inch rope will be four feet shorter, and a four-strand, one-half inch rope will be five and one-third feet shorter, after being spliced.

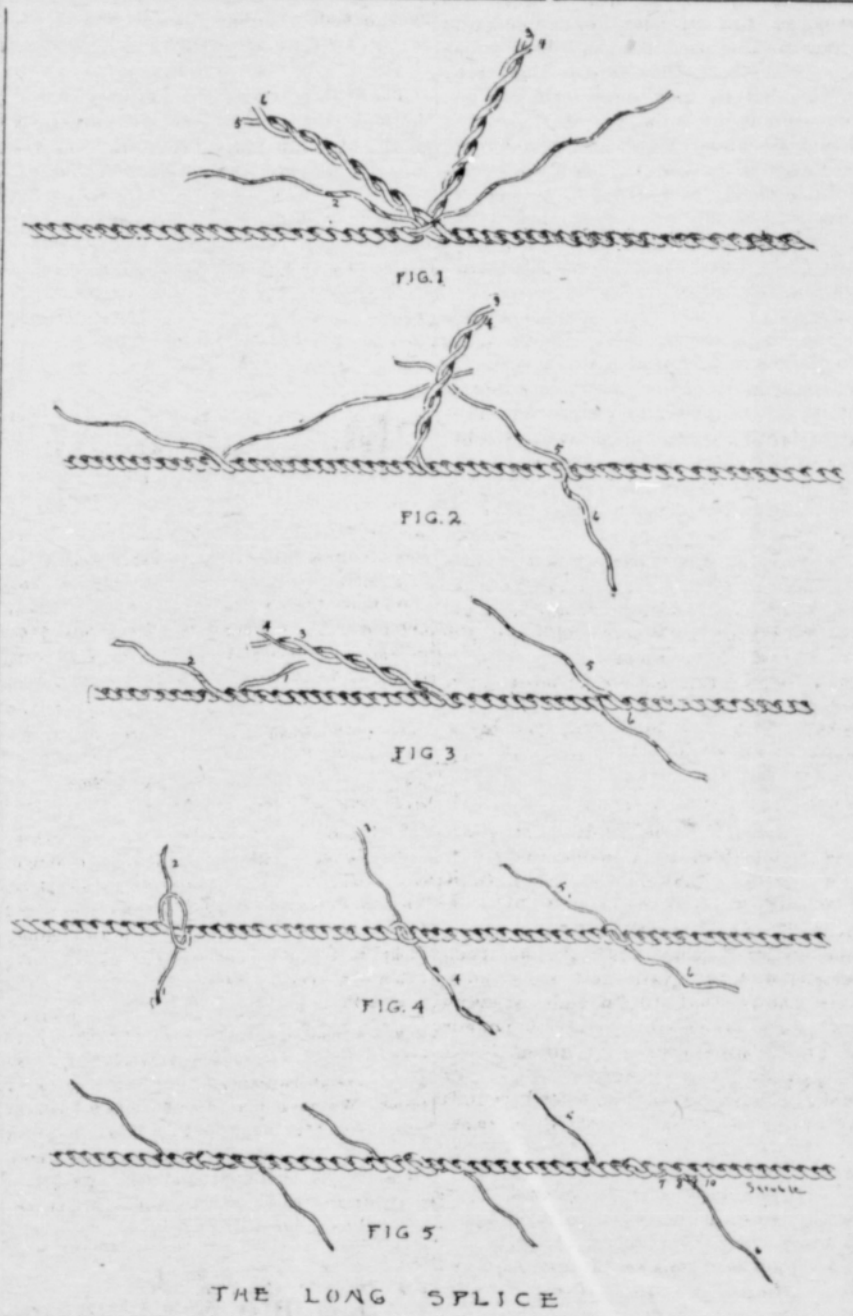
### Interlay Strands.

After unlaying the strands they should be arranged on each end of the rope in such a way that one strand does not pass over between the other strands in the same end of the rope. Proceed to bring the two ends of the rope together interlacing the strands by putting a strand from one end between two strands of the other end. The two ends should be placed firmly together. By referring to figure 1 it will be noted that a strand from one end is paired with a strand from the other end. The strands making these pairs should not be selected at random. As the rope is held in front of the operator one-half of the strands project to the left and the other half to the right. With the rope held so that two strands are on top take one that passes to the right inside of one that passes to the left and twist it around the latter as indicated. Turn the rope and twist all but one pair together. This will keep the strands out of the way and will hold the ends of the rope together.

Either of the remaining strands may now be taken and unlaid one full turn around the rope. Take the other strand twist it up firmly between the thumb and forefinger of the right hand and lay it in place of the one unlaid. Unlay strand one another turn and repeat the twisting and laying process with strand two.

### Refer to Illustrations.

It is best not to unlay strand one any further until sure that the right strands have been paired. This may be determined after unlaying strand five and laying strand six in its place by the method just given. By referring to Fig. 2 it will be noted that strand two falls directly into the space left by strand one, that the same is true of strands five and six, and that if strand three were unlaid strand four would fill the space left. The right strands have been paired if this result is obtained. Reference to Fig. 3 indicates the result if the right strands are not paired.



THE LONG SPLICE

It will be noted that strand five has been unlaid, but that strand six does not fall directly into the space left, as a strand of the main rope lies between them. When this result is obtained a new beginning with different pairing of strands should be made. It the results are as those indicated in Fig. 2 proceed with the splicing by unlaying strand one a turn at a time and twisting and laying strand two in its place. Repeat this until all but about eight inches of strand two as been laid up. Cut strand one off the same length as strand two and bring it inside the latter. Tie an overhand knot with the two strands. Untwist the strands a little and work the knot down, until the place is practically no larger than the main rope.

### Work With Body of Rope.

This process should be repeated with strands five and six. Strands three and four should now be cut off to about eight inches long and tied. The correct way of tying these knots is clearly indicated in Fig. 4.

Each strand should now be spliced or worked into the body of the rope. Proceed to do this by taking strand six over strand seven and under strand eight as has been done in Fig. 5. The latter strand should be raised by untwisting it. A pointed hard wood stick made smooth and tapering, will greatly aid in the splicing process. After passing strand six under strand eight, the former should be loosened by untwisting it a little and then pulling it down snugly. This should leave the place where it passes over strand seven a little larger than it was before. Remove one of the cords from the lower side of strand six by cutting it off ¼ to ⅜-inch from strand eight. This short end should be securely tucked under strand nine. Continue to splice strand is by passing it over strand nine and under ten, remove a cord as before, bury the short end under the strand to be passed over next, and repeat until strand six has passed under a strand of the rope five or six times. This process should be continued for each strand. Rolling the completed splice under the foot or a board will assist in making the completed splice practically no larger than the main rope.

In case the rope is one of four strands instead of three, it will be necessary to run the two middle pairs of strands back a little distance on each side of the place where the ropes are joined.

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Dr. Clifton Fremont Hodge, professor of social biology at the Oregon State University, at Eugene, who has become widely known over Oregon because of his numerous lectures along lines of popular biology, has just been initiated into the Grange. He became a member of the organization at Junction City, Lane county.

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